

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/945,448

Applicant(s)

BRUNNER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Chih-Ching Chow

2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/26/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-14, 16-30, 32-34, 36-55, 57-68, 70-72 and 74-78.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/30/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/17/08
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. This action is responsive to Applicant's IDS filed November 26, 2007. This Office Action replaces the previous Office action dated October 05, 2007.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 26, 2007 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Office acknowledges receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 26, 2007. It has been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone

interview with Mr. Jonathan N. Geld, Registration Number 44,702, on January 17, 2008 for obviating any potential 101 issues and put the claims in condition for allowance.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

generating a customizable product configurator, said generating comprising creating a customizable product class, wherein the customizable product class comprises a set of one or more attributes to define the customizable product class;

adding a component product class to the customizable product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class comprises customizable class rules; and mapping a customizable user interface (UI) to the customizable product class, wherein the customizable UI provides an access structure to the customizable product configurator, elements of the customizable UI access structure correspond to elements of the customizable product class, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or more components of the customizable product; and

generating a configurator user interface with HTML, Applets, and ActiveX programming languages, wherein said generating uses the customizable UI .

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a set of one or more processors, cause the set of processors to perform operations comprising:

generating a customizable product configurator, said generating comprising

creating a customizable product class, wherein the customizable product class comprises a set of one or more attributes to define the customizable product class;

adding a component product class to the customizable product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class comprises customizable class rules; and

mapping a customizable UI to the customizable product class, wherein the customizable UI provides an access structure to the configurator, elements of the customizable UI access structure correspond to elements of the customizable product class, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or more components of the customizable product; and

generating a configurator user interface with HTML, Applets, and ActiveX programming languages, wherein said generating uses the customizable UI.

Claim 35. (Canceled)

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) An object oriented configurator comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor;
a customizable product class stored in the memory;
a component product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class inherits a set of one or more attributes from the customizable product class;
and a customizable UI, wherein the customizable UI is mapped to the customizable product class providing a view of the component product, the customizable UI provides an access structure, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or more components of the customizable product; wherein the customizable UI map comprises HTML, Applets, and ActiveX components.

Claim 56. (Canceled)

Claim 59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a processor;

means for generating a customizable product configurator using the processor, said means for generating comprising means for creating a

customizable product class, wherein the customizable product class comprises a set of one or more attributes to define the customizable product class;

means for adding a component product class to the customizable product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class comprises customizable class rules; and

means for mapping a customizable UI to the customizable product class, wherein the customizable UI provides an access structure to the configurator, elements of the customizable UI access structure correspond to elements of the customizable product class, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or more components of the customizable product; and

means for generating a configurator user interface with HTML, Applets, and ActiveX programming languages, wherein said generating uses the customizable UI.

Claim 73. (Canceled).

Examiner's Statement of Reason(s) for Allowance

5. Claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-30, 32-34, 36-55, 57-68, 70-72, 74-78 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record: **Dardinski** et al., teaches a method that provides improved apparatus for configuring process, environmental, industrial and other control systems. Such apparatus employs "appearance" objects (or other data and/or programming constructs) defining the appearance of configurable system components in graphical editors or other views in which the components may be depicted. **Branson** et al., teaches an object oriented framework mechanism for customization of object oriented frameworks provides an infrastructure that embodies the steps necessary to customize a selected object oriented framework (referred to herein as an "input framework"). Combining core functions provided by the framework with extensions provided by the framework consumer (i.e., user), results in a framework customization environment. **Geller** et al., teaches a method of generating a user product configuration program module from a development environment. The user product configuration program module includes user controls that allow user input of information for use in configuration computations. Methods are disclosed for creating and maintaining the logic for a configuration program module in the form of configuration parameters; creating and maintaining the visual controls and user interface; and linking created visual controls with underlying structure represented by the parameters. **Strevey** et al., teaches a computer based method of collecting, structuring, and displaying product configuration information, and using the product configuration information to produce a computer program that validates product option selections and configures a product, is disclosed. New arts made of record: US Patent No. 5,630,025, by **Dolby** et al., teaches a generalized configuration expert system for generating a complete, legal, and near-optimal configuration for any complex system consisting of multiple components is disclosed; the system allows a developer to specify a configurator framework for solving

a particular configuration problem. US Patent No. 6,779,155, by **Bahrs** et al., teaches a method and apparatus in a data processing system for displaying a graphical user interface. A container is displayed in a graphical user interface from a set of containers, wherein a display of the container handled by a view controller from a set of view controllers; each view controller handles the display of an associated container within the set of containers and user input for the associated container. However, none of them, taken alone or in combination, teaches generating a customizable product configurator, said generating comprising: creating a customizable product class, wherein the customizable product class comprises a set of one or more attributes to define the customizable product class; adding a component product class to the customizable product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class comprises customizable class rules; and mapping a customizable user interface (UI) to the customizable product class, wherein the customizable UI provides an access structure to the customizable product configurator, elements of the customizable UI access structure correspond to elements of the customizable product class, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or more components of the customizable product., in such a manner as recited in independent claims 1, 21, and 59. And an object oriented configurator comprising a processor and a memory, a component product class, wherein the component product class is a subclass of the customizable product class, and the component product class inherits a set of one or more attributes from the customizable product class; and a customizable UI, wherein the customizable UI is mapped to the customizable product class providing a view of the component product, the customizable UI provides an access structure, the customizable product class is configured to represent a customizable product, and the component product class is configured to represent one or

more components of the customizable product; as recited in independent claim 41 (see REMARKS dated 10/17/2006, pages 16-18).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Ching Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-3693. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chih-Ching Chow
Examiner
Art Unit 2191
January 18, 2008

CC



WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER